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Claims

1. A method for conducting a cooking process in a cooking chamber of a cooking appliance using a cooking process probe which is to be inserted at least partly into an item being cooked in the cooking chamber for detecting at least one variable of the item being cooked, *characterized in that, at at least one predetermined point in time a monitoring to detect non-insertion of the cooking process probe proceeds automatically, in which*
 - 5 - *at least a conductivity value, a resistance value, an induction value, a capacitance, a pressure characteristic and/or a characteristic of an electric, magnetic or electromagnetic field is or are detected for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is in a standby position in a retaining device provided by the cooking appliance or in a measuring position in a positioning device provided by an accessory part for receiving the item being cooked, and/or*
 - 10 - *at least a conductivity value, a resistance value, an induction value, a capacitance value, a potential difference value, a weight value, a moisture value, a radiation characteristic, a pressure characteristic and/or a characteristic of an electric, magnetic and/or electromagnetic field is or are detected for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is removed from the retaining device or the positioning device, and/or*
 - 15 - *radiation characteristics and/or a characteristic of an electric, magnetic or electromagnetic field is or are detected for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is moved and/or where the cooking process probe is positioned inside the cooking appliance, and/or*
 - 20 - *at least a conductivity value, a resistance value, an induction value, a capacitance value, a potential different value, a moisture value, a radiation characteristic, a pressure characteristic and/or a characteristic of an electric, magnetic or electromagnetic field is or are detected for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is being grasped, and if non-insertion is detected, at least a first warning signal is emitted, a changeover is made to an emergency program and/or the cooking program is aborted.*

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2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, to detect non-insertion of the cooking process probe, a monitoring is carried out to determine whether the cooking process probe is connected to the cooking appliance.
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3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, *the* predetermined point in time, *is* determined by the beginning of a cooking process, the end of a cooking process and/or an actuation, in particular opening or closing, of a cooking chamber door.
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4. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, *the detection* is carried out over time and/or by forming time derivatives.
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5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, to detect non-insertion of the cooking process probe, at least one variable of the item being cooked detected by means of the cooking process probe, a variation over time of the variable of the item being cooked and/or at least one derivative of the variation over time of the variable of the item being cooked is or are determined with respect to time, the determined variable of the item being cooked, the determined variation over time and/or the determined derivative preferably being compared with at least one setpoint value.
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6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, dependent on the cooking process, a second warning signal is emitted if the cooking process probe is not placed in the retaining device, in order to call on an operator to place the cooking process probe in the retaining device, and/or a third warning signal is emitted if the cooking process probe is not placed in the positioning device, in order to call on an operator to place the cooking process probe in the positioning device.
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7. A cooking appliance (1), *in particular for carrying out a method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, with a cooking chamber (3) and a cooking process probe (11, 11')* which is to be inserted at least partly into an item (13) being cooked in the cooking chamber (3) for detecting at least one variable of the item (13) being cooked, characterized in that a non-insertion of the cooking process probe (11, 11') into the item (13) being cooked is detectable by the use of
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- electrical contacts (25, 25', 25'', 27, 27', 27''), a contact sensor, a pressure sensor, a light barrier, an ultrasonic sensor, a reed contact (41, 43, 53), a light sensor and/or a conductivity sensor (61) for monitoring whether the cooking process probe (11, 11') is in a standby position in a retaining device (17, 17') provided by the cooking appliance (1), or in a measuring position in a positioning device (15) provided by an accessory part (16) for receiving the item (13) being cooked, and/or
 - electrical contacts (25, 25', 25'', 27, 27', 27''), a contact sensor, a pressure sensor, a light barrier, an ultrasonic sensor, a reed contact (51, 53, 53), a light sensor and/or a conductivity sensor (61) for monitoring whether the cooking process probe (11, 11') has been removed from the retaining device (17, 17') or from the positioning device (15), and/or
 - a light barrier, an ultrasonic sensor, a locating system, a movement sensor and/or a light sensor for monitoring whether the cooking process probe (11, 11') is positioned inside the cooking appliance (1) or whether the cooking process probe (11, 11') has been moved, and/or
 - electrical contacts (25, 25', 25'', 27, 27', 27''), a contact sensor, a pressure sensor, a light barrier, an ultrasonic sensor, a light sensor, a conductivity sensor (61) and/or a moisture sensor for monitoring whether the cooking process probe (11, 11') has been grasped, and if non-insertion is detected, at least a first warning signal can be emitted, a changeover can be made to an emergency program and/or the cooking program can be aborted for conducting a cooking process.
- 25 8. The cooking appliance as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the sensor (25, 25', 25'', 27, 27', 27'', 41, 43, 53, 61) is comprised by the retaining device (17, 17', 32, 33, 36, 47), the positioning device (15) and/or the cooking process probe (11, 11').
- 30 9. The cooking appliance as claimed in claim 7 or 8, characterized by an input (7) and/or output unit (9) and/or an open-loop and/or closed-loop control unit in operative connection with the cooking process probe (11, 11'), a cooking chamber door (5), the sensor (25, 25', 25'', 27, 27', 27'', 41, 43, 53, 61), the retaining device (17, 17', 32, 33, 36, 47) and/or the positioning device (15).
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10. The cooking appliance as claimed in one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that the cooking process probe (11, 11') is captively connected to the cooking appliance (1).
- 5 11. The cooking appliance as claimed in one of claims 7 to 10, characterized by a cooling device, at least temporarily in operative connection with the cooking process probe (11, 11') and/or the retaining device (17, 17', 32, 33, 36, 47), for cooling of at least one region of the cooking process probe (11, 11').

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